

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00223 172227Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
PA-02 PRS-01 /120 W

-----172231Z 049352 /14

P 172219Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2023

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALGARY 0223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: BERGER REPORT REACTIONS

1. TERRITORIAL COUNCILLOR (TOM BUTTERS) TOLD CONGEN THAT NWT COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE CALLING FOR A PLEBISCITE ON THE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE. NATIVES HAD, ACCORDING TO BUTTERS, BEEN STUNNED BY BERGER S FINDINGS AND VOTE ON PIPELINE ISSUE WOULD HELP TO CLEAR THE AIR. BUTTERS ADDED THAT THERE WAS CURRENTLY AURA OF PESSIMISM THROUGHOUT NWT ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A FAVORABLE GOC DECISION ON ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

2. CONTRASTING OPINION WAS OFFERED BY INUVIK MAYOR WHO CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING THAT GOC WOULD, AFTER ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, SELECT MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE OPTION. AMONG NEW FACTORS FAVORING ARCTIC GAS PROPOSAL WERE DEMANDS BY SOME NWT INUIT AND METIS LEADERS FOR REJECTION OF JUSTICE BERGER S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE CALL BY COUNCIL OF YUKON INDIANS FOR A SEVEN TO TEN YEAR DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE THROUGH YUKON. LATTER PROPOSAL HAD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED ALCAN BACKERS ASSERTION THAT YUKON INDIANS WERE CLOSE TO REACHING A LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.

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3. SENIOR IMPERIAL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS COMPANY S NORTHERN OPERATIONS NOTED THAT PLEBESCITE PLAN WAS GOOD IN THEORY BUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REALIZE IN PRACTICE. AMONG POTENTIAL PLEBISCITE PITFALLS WERE THE DIFFICULTY IN ASSURING THAT ONLY AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS VOTE -- THERE WERE NO LISTS OF AUTHORIZED NWT VOTERS -- AND LIKELIHOOD THAT

INDIAN BROTHERHOOD AND POSSIBLY OTHER NATIVE GROUPS WOULD
CALL UPON THEIR FOLLOWERS TO BOYCOTT A PLEBISCITE ON THE
PIPELINE.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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